

Pony Express Service Begins



On April 3, 1860, the first Pony Express Rider was dispatched from St. Joseph, Missouri. Thus began a great American experiment in which riders would attempt to cover nearly 2,000 miles in a matter of 10 days. To reach Sacramento, California in this short a time required that riders, carrying heavy bags of mail, change horses at 153 stations across the country. Braving attacks from hostile Indians and the perils of unknown country, the final relay rider reached Sacramento on schedule. He was greeted by bands, speeches, and cheering crowds inaugurating a colorful chapter in the history of American communications.

The historic U.S. mint stamp on this Panel portrays the first Pony Express Rider on his journey from St. Joseph to Sacramento. It was issued in 1960.



St. Joseph, Missouri—April 3, 1860

amous 1949 U.S. Air Mail stamp showing Or-
 ight and their plane.
 celebrate American heroism. Lindbergh's
 ne Atlantic, commemorated with the 1977
 e Spirit of St. Louis." The D-Day Invasion of
 to life on a Panel with a 1945 stamp showing
 aris. U.S. forces raising the flag at Iwo Jima,
 which stirred an entire nation with patriotism



FIRST MAN ON THE MOON

e—all bring to mind the spirit of achievement
 try great. And all are captured in the stamps,
 f this spectacular collection.

**Original art by one of today's
 most stamp designers and
 philatelists on historical subjects.**

gs for **The History of America in Stamps** are
 ful, as you can see. And the authenticity is just
 y! That's because the Postal Commemorative
 ssioned one of America's foremost stamp
 ans, Mr. Ed Vebell, to provide the paintings.
 daughter Victoria, a gifted artist in her own
 ll create all 150 original works of art for this



Lexington & Concord 1775 by Sandham

US Bicentennial 10cents

Few artists combine artistry and accuracy like Mr. Vebell: he insists that each painting be as authentic as possible. For **The History of America in Stamps**, Mr. Vebell will research each event. And then he will recreate many of the events before he or his daughter starts painting.

For the painting of Washington at Valley Forge, for instance, Mr. Vebell traveled to Valley Forge and posed models wearing reproductions of authentic capes from the Revolution. You will notice there is not much snow in the painting—that's because Mr. Vebell researched the meteorological records and found that while the winter of 1777-8 was bitter cold, little snow fell in the vicinity of Valley Forge. This is what will make these paintings unique: each will be true to the letter as well as the spirit of history.

Important anniversary postmarks will authenticate each Philatelic Panel.

Each Panel will be officially postmarked on the anniversary date of the event commemorated—at or near the location where the event took place. These official postmarks will authenticate each Panel as an important philatelic collectible and will add yet another element of history to the collection—there will be 150 official anniversary postmarks in all! Importantly, the postmarks will appear on each Panel separately from the historic stamps. Therefore, the historic stamps will be perfect mint specimens and will remain unblemished and perfect for all time.

Mr. Vebell is a Founding Member of the Society of American Historical Artists and a frequent consultant to the Smithsonian Institution on American costumes and uniforms. He has designed 15 U.S. stamps—including the four-stamp Continental Military Uniforms Issue of 1975.

Continued inside.